

WASHINGTON.

"LIBERTY AND UNION, NOW AND FOREVER, ONE AND INSEPARABLE."

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1864.

THE CASE OF THE FLORIDA.

We are sure that every reader will concur with the New York Evening Post in its expression of the hope that the President will at once cause the most exact and earnest investigation to be instituted into the circumstances under which the Florida has been recently sunk. Our contemporary says:

"As the despatch now reads the incident has an equivocal aspect. Should it turn out that her destruction was ordered by some one in the employ of the Government in order to get rid of a dangerous element of international law, we know of no punishment so severe as to be meted out to the wretches who could inflict upon our national reputation a disgrace so mean."

"Even if the accident was the result of carelessness, this negligence becomes under the circumstances equivalent to a crime. Our concern with the Florida, up to this time, has been that of trustees or guardians. She was seized by us, but she was not our property; she was in our hands, but only as a trust to be sacredly preserved until the courts should decide upon the justice of her capture and the necessity of her restoration. That any mischief should happen to her while thus under our care, is too grave a misfortune to be lightly regarded. Such an accident as this compromises the fair fame of the Government and the honor of the nation; and we can better afford to build Jeff Davis a fleet of Florida than to tolerate any thing which degrades our character for the strictest probity, in ever so slight a degree."

"It may be, as a morning journal suggests, that some over-zealous transport captain has thought to cut a knot which was fastening the Florida to the Government, and the punishment he merits, and let him become a wretch hereafter to all marplots and shallow-brains to keep out of what they do not understand. Meantime, of course, the argument regarding the Florida must go on, just as though she were still floating in Hampton Roads. The conflict between the Brazilian Government and our own will be right and just in the premises; and whatever appears to be our duty, when that decision is reached, let all who believe it will be done in good faith—if we have to build a new Florida as fast as we can."

"Of course our enemies abroad will exclaim that the sinking of the Florida is only another Yankee trick, and will refuse to believe that it was a mere accident which sent her to the bottom. Such people are apt to judge others by themselves. But if it were a trick, it would be in reality no 'Yankee trick,' which has commonly the merit of sagacity, but such a blundering piece of strategy as that of the countryman who saved off a branch upon which he was sitting, between himself and the tree, and brought his body uncomfortably to the ground. So far as the facts are known, the case of the Florida was of such a nature that our own privateering interests, in any future war, would be immensely benefited by the presence of her surrendering her on the demand of Brazil. It might have been supposed that a shrewd, long-headed navy officer seized her, only in order that her surrender might establish a precedent of peculiar importance to us. That would have been an apt piece of 'Yankee cunning'; but a willful destruction of the ship, under existing circumstances, is such a piece of honesty and candor as to lead us to believe that any one connected with the public service could be guilty of it. But this must be made clear to the world."

"Let us repeat the hope, therefore, that an instant and severe scrutiny will be ordered by the President into all the circumstances of this affair. If it was unavoidable, as it is alleged, the fact should be made to appear upon the most indubitable evidence. If it was not unavoidable, as the enemies of the nation will assert, the Government should clear the public air as quickly as possible. Mr. Lincoln's avowed policy of honesty and candor are too essential to allow him to neglect or even postpone a matter so essential as this to our national reputation."

These views are entirely just and proper, whether regard be had to the law or to considerations of mere expediency in the matter. The national honor must be preserved not only from a wound, but from the stain of suspicion. If the Florida had been a prize vessel, taken by the Wachusett in a legitimate and ordinary way, she would have been held by us, as the Post suggests, subject to the award of the judicial proceedings set on foot for her condemnation. But in fact the case of the Florida, owing to the circumstances of her capture, enters at once into the domain of diplomacy, and presents an issue which, delicate at the best, is likely to be complicated by her destruction, unless it can be clearly demonstrated that her destruction was accidental. If it was the work of some super-servicable captain of a transport, more intent on reaching a certain end than scrupulous of the means employed for accomplishing his object, it is due to the Government that all complicity with his recklessness should be disavowed, and that his conduct should receive the condign punishment it deserves. We do not doubt that the ordinary resources of diplomacy will be adequate to dispose amicably of the complication which has arisen between our Government and that of Brazil, growing out of the violation done to the neutrality of the latter. We observe that some writers are industriously citing from British history certain precedents which, if they do not justify the seizure of the Florida on grounds of strict law, are at least sufficient, it is supposed, to bring that incident within the category of cases where strict law is modified by considerations of necessity or policy. We do not need to say that all such precedents might better be cited for avoidance than for observance.

EXTINGUISHMENT OF THE SCHELDT DUES.

The President has issued a proclamation that the treaty between the United States and the King of the Belgians for the extinguishment of the Scheldt dues has been duly ratified on both sides, and another proclamation announcing the exchange of ratifications of the convention between these same nations, completing by new stipulations the treaty of commerce and navigation of July, 1853. By these arrangements the United States, in view of the proposition made by Belgium to regulate by a common accord the capitalization of the Scheldt dues, consents to contribute to this capitalization, under certain conditions, an amount not exceeding 2,000,000 francs. The tariff of import duties resulting from the treaty of the 1st of May, 1861, between Belgium and France, is extended to goods imported from the United States on the same conditions with which it was extended to Great Britain by the treaty of July 23, 1862. The reduction made by the treaties entered into with Switzerland December 11, 1862; with Italy April 9, 1863; with the Netherlands May 12, 1863, and also with France May 12, 1863, is to be equally applied to goods imported from the United States. It is agreed that Belgium shall extend to the United States the same reductions of import duties which may result from her subsequent treaties with other Powers. In accordance with the ninth article of the treaty of July 17, 1858, the flag of the United States is to be assimilated to that of Belgium for the transportation of salt.

Gen. Banks, it seems, is to return to New Orleans. It is stated that he has received his orders and instructions from the President with reference to the military and civil government of the "Department of the Gulf," and will return in a few days to resume command of that department.

The newspapers state that the present financial condition of Philadelphia is as follows: "The debt of the city as represented by loans amounts to \$30,250,832. Add to this loans yet to be authorized to meet various already paid, (say \$4,500,000); the school loan, (\$1,000,000); the water loan, (\$1,000,000); and the total deficiencies of 1864, (\$4,250,000), which in all probability will have to be met, and we have a total debt of upwards of forty-one millions with which to begin the year 1865."

THE ELEMENTS OF UNION.

No reflecting observer of our times can have failed to mark the great predominance given in the thoughts of men to physical over moral forces as agents to be employed in the work of restoring the Union. This was perhaps a necessary consequence of the magnitude of the military and naval operations set on foot for the purpose of quelling an armed secession which itself had assumed gigantic proportions—compelling, on the part of the Government, a demonstration of superior material resources as one ground of confidence in the ultimate maintenance of the national authority.

And yet, as we have intimated, it cannot have escaped the attention of every philosophical student of history, that force alone is but a poor reliance for the reduction of that hostile temper which the great mass of the Southern people may be expected to show, so long as nothing but force is made the ground on which it is proposed to restore the Union. It was in recognition of the inherent inadequacy of "force alone" to accomplish this beneficent purpose that the President, in his Annual Message of December, 1862, suggested what he believed to be a more excellent way in his plan of emancipation with compensation. To this effect, as cited by us a few days ago in another relation, he then wrote:

"This plan is recommended as a means, not in exclusion of, but additional to, all others for restoring and preserving the national authority throughout the Union. The subject is presented exclusively in its economical aspect. The plan would, I am confident, secure peace more speedily, and maintain it more permanently, than can be done by force alone; while all it would cost, considering amounts, and manner of payment, and times of payment, would be easier paid than will be the additional cost of the war, if we rely solely upon force. It is much—very much—that it would cost no blood at all."

We have been reminded of these views of the President by some highly appropriate remarks made by Bishop Southgate, at St. John's Church in this city, on Thursday last, the Day of Thanksgiving, when he spoke as follows. We quote from the report of his sermon as found in the Morning Chronicle:

"He maintained that the course of love to our Southern brethren which Christian principle and feeling demand is not inconsistent with the assertion of the error and wickedness of secession, or with the vigorous use of every effort to quell the rebellion; that, after the first gun was fired at Sumter, the war was hardly to be avoided; but he would utterly condemn the course of ecclesiastical assemblies which had spoken only to provoke deeper hate, and had never sent 'to their Christian fellow-men at the South, those formerly associated with them in the dearest and the closest of bonds that can bind man to man, a word of loving appeal; some proposition to unite their efforts, as Christian patriots, to stop the tide of slaughter, and restore the old harmony on the old basis.' Such work could have done no harm, and might have been productive of great good. 'We have,' he said, 'suffered our Christian brethren of the South to keep apart, without a word of the old friendly greeting reaching their ear. We have lost the opportunity to try the power of Christian persuasion; to awaken, in behalf of our common country, the old feeling of Christian fellowship.' He regretted, he said, in this respect, some of the action of the last General Convention; and argued that the doing of our duty as citizens, in aiding to suppress the rebellion, in no wise prevented our distinctive Christian action upon the precepts of Scripture relating to the differences between brother and brother, precepts equally applicable to assemblies of Christian men. 'We have thousands,' he said, 'and hundreds of thousands of brothers at the South who are bound to us by the ties of communion in Christ's Holy Church. They yearn, perhaps, for our love as of old. We ought, certainly, to yearn in love to them. And why should not such a love have an utterance and expression? It might work wonders of goodness. It might appease angry passions. It might elicit erring Christians back to duty. It might save the land. The torch of war flames wildly abroad; of who is bearing the olive branch of peace?'"

"On this point the Bishop dwelt at large, insisting upon the true nature and style of Christian action under such circumstances as those of the present war, allowing full scope to every effort for suppressing rebellion by force of arms; but declaring that to forbear the action of Christian brotherhood was to 'leave the prosecution of the work to the powers of evil, and thus to hazard its beneficial issue.' 'It would seem,' he said, 'as if we had nothing to do but fight, fight, fight. Kindly consideration, extenuating circumstance, the generous impulse of love, are out of the question. Every thing is done on both sides to exasperate each other. Motives are misconstrued, actions are misrepresented, and a system of universal lying is inaugurated, which shows a corrupt condition of the public mind thoroughly appalling. The country does not need falsehoods and hate for its preservation. If it does, it is not worth preserving. The Christian soldier will fight no less bravely and successfully with love and a generous appreciation of his rival in his heart. And we all shall be nearer to the victory of right if we tell no lies, do not belittle and defame our antagonists, acknowledge fairly their skill and prowess, though in a bad cause, and make all just allowance for the circumstances which led to their misdoing. Abuse, depreciation, infamous slander, and vainglory have not won for us a single battle, nor will ever lead the strife to a happy termination.'"

It has always seemed to us that the loyalty which abjures passion and bases itself on principle would carry its votaries farther than the loyalty which is founded on sectional pride and hate. And we are equally sure that those who would have the Government hold towards the people of the South the language of this prelate, have more clearly than some others perceived at once the path of patriotic obligation and of Christian duty. As the President said of his plan so we say of this—that it is "recommended as a means not in exclusion of, but additional to, all others for restoring and preserving the national authority throughout the Union." Or, as Bishop Southgate expresses it, "our duty as citizens in aiding to suppress the rebellion in no wise prevents our distinctive Christian action upon the precepts of Scripture relating to the differences between brother and brother."

COL. WOLFORD AND GOV. JACOB.

We are happy to announce that President Lincoln has consented to the release of Lieut. Gov. Jacob and Col. Frank Wolford. We sincerely hope that this may be the commencement of a new policy on the part of the President. These gentlemen have proved their loyalty at the head of Kentucky volunteer regiments, and have braved death on many a stubborn battle-field in defence of the flag. With the excitement of the election, let us forget all words of bitterness, and we will pledge ourselves that whenever the country needs their swords again they will always be flashed in the van of the Union armies and closest to the rebel foe.—Louisville Journal, Nov. 24.

THE VERMONT RAIDERS.

TORONTO, NOV. 26.—The application of the St. Albans raiders to the Canadian Government to dispatch a messenger to Richmond to obtain evidence alleged to be material to their defence has been rejected. It is understood that the Government has considered the raiders to be undergoing examination upon charges making them amenable to the extradition treaty, and that evidence procured at Richmond, while it might be very material if the rebels were before United States courts, is of little consequence at this stage of the proceedings.

THE RIGHT SPIRIT.

The New York Evening Post, in commenting on the result of the late election and on the loyal and graceful acquiescence of the defeated party, holds the following language:

"If Gen. McClellan had been successful in this political contest, should have taken him at his word as a Union man, and lent a ready support to his every measure looking toward a confirmation of our national unity. We should have endeavored to strengthen his arms against that faction of his friends who are looking in another direction. We shall now expect as much from his friends in regard to Mr. Lincoln. Let us have no more of these miserable party disputes—of this most miserable party spirit. Our country demands our united efforts. Let us join, then, in the determination to prosecute the war with all our energies, and by every military means in our possession. But, in order to show that our aim is not war but peace, let us, with every renewed effort of our arms, stretch forth new overtures of reconstruction to the misguided multitudes of the South who are following the ignis fatuus of secession into thicker darkness and deeper bogs of misery and ruin."

As our able contemporary confesses that if Gen. McClellan had been successful in the late political contest, it "would have taken him at his word as a Union man, and lent a ready support to his every measure looking toward a confirmation of our national unity," it can regard with candor the course of those who, sharing its confidence in the sincerity of his declarations, were willing "to take him at his word as a Union man" as well before as after the election, and as well without political success as with it. It is a matter of gratification to notice in all quarters an almost total subsidence of the waters of strife which a few weeks ago were so deeply stirred. The adherents of the successful, equally with the supporters of the defeated candidate have learned to place a more candid construction on the differences which recently obtained between them in the forum of political debate. We cordially join the Post in the invocation that we may have "no more of these miserable party disputes."

THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

A Financial Report of the United States Sanitary Commission for May, 1861, to July 1, 1864, has just been published for the first time in the columns of the New York World. It appears that on the 1st of July last the total amount of money received by the Commission from all sources since its organization in June, 1861, to July 1, 1864, was \$2,677,904.40. The amount expended was \$1,672,507.72. The balance in the hands of the Treasurer at the last named date was \$1,005,396.68. The total cost of supplies purchased during this period amounts to \$753,303.42, while the cash valuation of articles received in kind, as contributions for the soldiers to the United States Sanitary Commission, from June, 1861, to July 1, 1864, is set down at \$6,418,959.33, making the aggregate cash valuation of all supplies which have passed through the hands of the United States Sanitary Commission \$7,172,262.75. The total cost of the distribution of these supplies is stated to be \$266,801.71, or only three and seventy-six one-hundredths per cent. (3.76) of the value of the supplies distributed.

The statistics of this report correct one impression which may have been left on the mind of the reader, as it was on our own when we analyzed a few days ago the report of the Western Department of the Commission. In the presence of these completed statistics, it will be seen that, in estimating the ratio of the supplies distributed to the cost of distribution, (the latter including all the working expenses of the Commission,) it is not correct to include in the former only the cost of purchased supplies. The cash value of supplies contributed in kind should of course be included in the first item. The figures of the report enable us to make this important correction in the interest of the Commission's repute for accuracy.

A DISPATCH BOAT BURNED.

Early on Sunday morning, when Gen. Butler's dispatch boat, the Greyhound, was coming down the James river to Fortress Monroe, and when opposite Jamestown, she took fire and was entirely consumed. Gen. Butler and a member of his staff, Rear Admiral Porter, Gen. Schenck, and other gentlemen were on board. Fortunately the Greyhound's boats were quickly manned, and all on board escaped. A number of horses belonging to officers on board, together with clothing, baggage, &c., were consumed, each man only having time to save his own life. The crew of the Greyhound is small, and it was probably owing to this fact that no lives were lost, for had there been many aboard some one must necessarily have perished.

The coal used on the Greyhound was of that soft kind which expands when used as fuel, and on this occasion it burst open the furnace doors and threw a large quantity of fire upon the engine floor. Before the doors could be again closed the back draught forced the flame upward, and in a moment fire issued above the deck. The vessel being dry the flames spread rapidly, and but for the presence of mind of the engineer, who at once stopped the vessel, and on board would no doubt have perished.

ORDER FOR A SPECIAL ARMY CORPS.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 287.
War Department, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, November 28, 1864.

I. That an Army Corps, to consist of not less than twenty thousand infantry, and enlisted for not less than one year, to be designated the "First Corps," shall be organized in the District of Columbia, commencing the organization on the first day of December, 1864, and continuing until the first day of January next, the privates to consist only of able-bodied men who have served honorably not less than two years, and therefore not subject to draft. The officers to be commissioned from such as have honorably served not less than two years.

II. Recruits will be furnished transportation to Washington, will be credited to the District in which they or their family are domiciled, and will be paid a special bounty of three hundred dollars from the substitute fund upon being mustered into service. Each recruit who preserves his arms to the end of his term may retain them as his own upon being honorably discharged from service.

III. Details of organization will be prescribed by the Adjutant General. The heads of bureaus will detail competent officers for the prompt examination and organization, arming, equipping, and supplying the corps.

IV. Major Gen. Hancock is assigned to the command of this corps. Headquarters at Washington.

By order of the Secretary of War: E. D. TOWNSEND, Assistant Adjutant General.

By some inadvertence the fine Enology on the life and character of the late Chief Justice TANEY was attributed to Wm. L. Fryn, instead of the Hon. JOHN V. L. FRYN, the distinguished and esteemed Representative from the Albany district in New York.

The canvas for the Washington city Directory is now completed. All corrections, &c., to be made can be left at the Bookstore of Hudson Taylor, Pennsylvania avenue.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS.

The Treasury report of expenses for the last year shows \$1,000,000,000 paid, of which \$722,000,000 was borrowed. The remainder was customs and taxes. The expenses of 1863 were \$1,000,000,000. The Treasury report last year were official lists of prices for December, 1863. The prices to-day compare as follows:

	Dec. 1863.	Nov. 28, 1864.	Inc.
Gold, \$100	\$120	\$130	\$10
Flour, superfine	\$5.50 a 50	\$9.00 a 50	\$3.50
Wheat	1.00 a 50	1.20 a 50	20 c
Corn	0.85 a 50	1.00 a 50	15 c
Oats	1.21 a 100	1.30 a 100	9 c
Iron, pig	22.50 a 100	23.00 a 100	50 c
Iron, bar	7.00 a 100	7.10 a 100	10 c
Lead	5.50 a 100	5.60 a 100	10 c
Copper	0.30 a 100	0.31 a 100	1 c
Molasses	0.45 a 100	0.46 a 100	1 c
Pork, mess	16.50 a 100	16.80 a 100	30 c
Pork, prime	12.10 a 100	12.30 a 100	20 c
Butter	5.00 a 100	5.10 a 100	10 c
Rice	7.00 a 100	7.10 a 100	10 c
Salt	1.70 a 100	1.75 a 100	5 c
Saltpetre	0.19 a 100	0.20 a 100	1 c
Wool	0.68 a 100	0.70 a 100	2 c

These prices represent articles in which the Treasury is a large dealer. If the Government buys as much of these articles as it did last year, instead of spending \$1,000,000,000, it must manufacture \$1,500,000,000 of paper to get as much property. One million barrels of pork, that cost \$17,000,000, will cost this year \$35,000,000. Mr. President, in his estimate, must make allowance for these facts. In December, 1862, Mr. Chase estimated the expenses of 1864 at \$845,418,181. The results are as follows:

Estimate for 1861	\$845,418,181
Actual expense for 1864	1,047,201,220
Excess	\$201,783,039

This excess of twenty-five per cent. grew out of the fact that when he made the estimate gold was low; when the expense was made, gold and prices had risen twenty-five per cent.—N. Y. Express.

ATLANTA SINCE THE EVACUATION.

The Savannah Eagle of the 23d November states that a body of troops which had entered Atlanta shortly after it had been evacuated reported that the larger portion of the business section of the town was in ashes. An editorial mentions that Milledgeville was evacuated, and that the archives and all valuable Government and personal property had been removed. The columns of the paper are filled with anathemas against the invaders under Sherman, and with proclamations from Generals of high rank and eminent men, calling upon the citizens of Georgia to rise en masse and sacrifice all interests in one desperate effort to crush and annihilate Sherman in his, so far, irresistible advance.

CUMBERLAND GAP.

The Louisville Journal of Saturday says: "Gen. Burbridge has reached Cumberland Gap with his force. He moved with great dispatch from Lexington, and the rebels under Breckinridge are now confronted by a formidable army. Cumberland Gap is safe, and as long as it is held Breckinridge will be prevented from invading Kentucky from that quarter. He will scarcely venture to attack our troops now, protected, as they are, by such strong works. If the rebels should attempt to retreat, it is presumed that Burbridge will advance to harass their rear."

THE RAID ON THE OHIO RAILROAD.

The Baltimore Sun of yesterday gives the following account of the raid on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad which was mentioned yesterday:

About one o'clock on Monday afternoon a rebel cavalry force of from fifteen hundred to two thousand men, said to be commanded by Gen. Rosser and McCausland, suddenly appeared in front of New Creek Station, where were located two earthworks, defended by a small force of Union troops numbering not more than three hundred men. The resistance offered was of no avail, and in short time the rebels were in possession of the post. It was not known last night what had become of the garrison.

On getting possession of the post the rebels are reported to have blown up the earthworks, and destroyed by fire a number of sheds and stables belonging to the Government, as well as several buildings used as storehouses for quartermaster and commissary stores, involving a considerable loss. It is also said that the destruction of the houses at the station except one, reported to belong to Col. Armstrong, of the rebel army. The telegraph wires were cut at New Creek, and this had the effect of exciting suspicion at Piedmont, and when, at five o'clock the same evening, the rebels entered that place they found that all the rolling stock of the railroad had been removed to a point of safety. At Piedmont the rebels destroyed the "round house," a large workshop of the company, with the stationary machinery and the shops.

A company of Union troops, commanded by Capt. Fisher, are reported to have harassed the rebels while at Piedmont to such an extent that they were compelled to desist their destructive operations and leave the place, which they did after a very brief stay. Capt. Fisher is reported to have prevented by his prompt action the destruction of much property. The railroad track and bridges were not interfered with in the least, and the only delay in the operations of the road was caused by precautionary measures. The rebels moved off quite hastily from Piedmont, going in a southerly direction.

General Sheridan and Kelly had ordered such a rapid concentration of troops as to render the further advance of the rebels somewhat hazardous. The telegraph to Piedmont was in full operation last evening, and communication with the entire line to Wheeling perfect, no interruption in the running of the trains having taken place. The loss to the railroad is reported to have been quite severe.

Gen. Pope left Washington on Monday for City Point. Report says that he will assume command of the Second Corps, lately commanded by Gen. Hancock.

SENT TO FORT WARREN.—Gen. Roger A. Pryor, who was captured in front of Petersburg on Sunday, has been conveyed to Fort Warren, Boston harbor, where, it is said, he will be detained as a State prisoner.

THE CREW OF THE FLORIDA.—All of the officers and crew who were brought here by the Kearsarge, Wachusett, and Florida are now confined in Fort Warren, where they will remain until the Government determines what disposition shall be made of them. There is no ground for the inference that by this transfer the Government has decided to restore them and the Florida to Brazil.

[Boston Traveller.]

The Lafayette (Indiana) Journal gives the following as the political complexion of the Indiana Legislature: Senate—Republicans 25, Democrats 5. House—Republicans 55, Democrats 45. Many of the Senate held over, which accounts for the tie in that body.

THE PRIVATEER FLORIDA SUNK.

The following despatches were received yesterday at the Navy Department:

FORTRESS MONROE, NOVEMBER 28.
Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.
I have just received a telegram from the commander of the prize steamer Florida, informing me that she had sunk in nine fathoms water. She had been run into by an army steamer and badly damaged. I have not heard the particulars. Will inform the Department when I receive the written report. DAVID D. PORTER, Rear Admiral.

FORTRESS MONROE, NOVEMBER 28.
Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.
The United States steamer Fort Morgan arrived at this port at 11 P. M. of the 27th inst., with the rebel Admiral Franklin Buchanan and his two side on board.

DAVID D. PORTER, Rear Admiral.

FIRE AT NEWBERN, (N. C.)

NEWBERN, NOV. 25.—Newbern was visited by a large fire on the night of the 19th, which consumed a large portion of one of the principal business blocks in the city. It originated in the ice-cream saloon on Middle street, extending to the medical purveyor's depot, on Broad street. The fire was arrested by blowing up two stores on Middle street. The loss is quite severe to the parties interested, especially in goods, as only a small portion was saved. The yellow fever has entirely disappeared. The past three nights have been accompanied with a heavy frost and freezing weather, which induces Newbern against the reappearance of the fever.

A skirmish occurred this other day at Plymouth, in which the enemy were routed. It is reported that the enemy are fortifying the Konokoe and Chowan rivers, with the view of evacuating Virginia.

NEWBERN, NOV. 26.—The great fire which occurred here on Saturday night last consumed twenty buildings, mostly business houses, some of which contained large stocks of goods, which, as a general thing, were not insured.

A BATTLE IN TENNESSEE.

HOOD ATTACKS OUR ARMY AT FRANKLIN AND MEETS WITH A DISASTROUS REPULSE.

We learn that official despatches to the Government announce the occurrence of a severe battle at Franklin, Tennessee, on Wednesday, the 30th November, which resulted victoriously for the national army. Prior to that day Gen. Thomas had fallen back from Columbia to Franklin, only twenty miles from Nashville, where he was attacked by the army of Gen. Hood. A desperate battle ensued, which lasted nearly two hours, and terminated in the repulse of the enemy's columns, after they had suffered very heavy losses. Their killed and wounded are estimated at five or six thousand men, and they also lost a thousand prisoners. The loss on our side is stated at only five or six hundred, our army having had the advantage of position. We subjoin the latest telegraphic despatches.

PRELIMINARY MOVEMENTS.

NASHVILLE, NOVEMBER 30.—The army movements for some days past have been simply for position. The Federal forces have not retreated except to improve the location. They occupy Franklin to-day, but they will probably select a place of battle much nearer Nashville. Skirmishing has occurred, with little or no advantage to either side. The probability is that a battle will be fought within the next forty-eight hours. Our forces are in eager anticipation, and our Generals hopeful and confident. Large accretions of troops have reached here, who have been sent to advantageous positions. Small detachments of rebel cavalry are operating not far from Nashville—doing, however, no great damage. Railroad communication with Chattanooga is intact. The trains are running regularly. There is much excitement among the citizens on account of the near approach of Hood's army. Maj. Gen. A. J. Smith's corps reached here to-night.

THE BATTLE AND REBEL DEFEAT.

NASHVILLE, NOV. 30.—Midnight.—The enemy at four P. M. made a heavy attack at Franklin with two corps, but after persistent fighting was repulsed at all points, with a loss of six thousand killed and wounded. Our loss was five hundred. A rebel brigadier general and one thousand prisoners were taken.

OFFICIAL DESPATCH.

The following despatch was received at the War Office yesterday from Gen. Thomas, who received it from Gen. Schofield, commanding in the field:

FRANKLIN, (TENN.) NOV. 30, 1864.

Major General THOMAS: The enemy made a heavy and persistent attack with about two corps, commencing at four this afternoon, and lasting until after dark. He was repulsed at all points with heavy loss, probably five or six thousand men. Our loss is probably not more than one thousand of that number. We have captured about one thousand men, including one Brigadier General.

SCHOFIELD.

A PEACE ADDRESS FROM ENGLAND.

About six weeks ago Mr. Joseph Parker, of Manchester, England, arrived at New York, bringing with him the "Peace Address of Subjects of Great Britain and Ireland," with a letter from Sir Henry De Houghton to Governor Seymour, who declined formally to receive it, assigning as a reason that it should be given to the President of the United States, the latter being the only authorized channel of communication between other nations and the citizens of the United States, and besides Governor Seymour said that his official position did not authorize him to accept the address on behalf of other States, and that it would be better to withhold the document until after the Presidential election, so as to avoid the appearance of interfering in the canvass.

Mr. Parker conformed to these suggestions, and having arrived in Washington last week addressed a note to Secretary Seward, stating that he had been deputed to convey to this country the address to the people of the United States, and asking the honor of an opportunity of presenting it to the President. To this the Secretary replied that before answering the letter it was desirable to be further informed whether Mr. Parker had authority from the Government of Great Britain and Ireland for the purpose referred to, and whether his mission had been made known to the diplomatic agent of that Government near the Government of the United States. Mr. Parker replied by saying that the address had the honor of being deputed by the parties signing it to bring to this country, containing the signatures of some three hundred and fifty thousand of his countrymen, from the peer to the artisan, was not from the Government of Great Britain, nor from any political party. It was simply an expression of the earnest desire of Great Britain to see peace again restored to this continent. The correspondence closed by a note from the Secretary of State, in which he said the Government of the United States could not receive the address, and that the request for an interview with the President was therefore declined.

This address is said to be signed by many Southern sympathizers who ask the Government of the United States to cease hostilities against that section of the country. The intention now is to present the address to Congress at the approaching session.

THE LATE ELECTION.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—The vote of New Hampshire for President is rendered official and complete as follows: Compared with 1860, that designated "Dem." in the latter year includes the strength of Douglas, Breckinridge, and Bell:

	Dem.	Rep.
1864	32,329	34,521
1860	32,404	37,519

3,925 2,998

It will thus be seen that in four years the Democrats have gained 3,925, while the Republicans have lost 2,998.

VERMONT.—The official vote of Vermont is as follows: Lincoln, 42,419; McClellan, 13,322. Republican majority, 29,097. There is a gain on Mr. Lincoln's majority in 1860 of over 6,000. The aggregate vote this year is over eleven thousand larger than it was in 1860.

NEW YORK.—The New York Tribune gives the complete official vote of the State, as follows:

	Lincoln	McClellan
Lincoln	368,730	361,934
McClellan	6,796	

Lincoln's majority in 1860 was 50,135. The total vote for President in 1860 was 675,156, in 1864 it is